



## Inside the Committee

### Making Our Homeland Resilient: The Need to Broaden Our Homeland Security Strategy

This month, the Committee on Homeland Security will be examining the importance of resilience in the nation's overall security strategy. The Nation's ability to work with the private sector and state and local governments is essential to our ability to effectively "bounce back". With over 85% of our Nation's critical infrastructure owned and operated by the private sector and the federal government's heavy reliance on state and local law enforcement's immediate response when a disaster strikes, we must play our roles effectively. Our hearings will evaluate everything from emergency communication systems to supply chain security.

We will address the following areas:

- (1) Examining the importance of two-way *communication* between DHS and the private sector as well as DHS and state and local governments.
- (2) Showing the importance of effective *collaboration* in securing the Nation.
- (3) Examining the various Federal government and private sector *coordination* efforts.

We have also addressed the importance of resilience in legislation. The 9/11 Bill (H.R.1) encourages stakeholders to adopt standards that ensure effective continuity within the private sector. Additionally, the Committee recently passed the Chemical Facility Security Improvement Act of 2007 (H.R. 1530) to reduce the consequences of an attack or an accident at a chemical facility. The bill also promotes inherently safer technologies at these facilities. We also recently marked up the Citizen and Community Preparedness Act of 2008 (H.R. 5890) in the Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response Subcommittee, which encourages the involvement of other critical partners—all of you, the American people.

*"Securing the homeland requires the participation of all stakeholders—the private sector, state and local governments, the Department of Homeland Security, and our Nation's great citizens."*

*-Chairman Bennie G. Thompson*

